

East Grinstead, Sussex, which had similarly been completely bound in silk, yet completely recovered on being released. It immediately began to consume grass blades and was still alive and active on the following day, having been colour-marked for individual recognition. I have not yet come across similar instances recorded in the entomological or arachnological literature, but suppose they exist, so would be grateful for any references that readers can supply.— JOHN F. BURTON, In der Etzwiese 2, D-69181 Leimen-St. Ilgen, bei Heidelberg, Germany.

### ***Quercusia quercus* L. (Lep.: Lycaenidae) at light in London area**

A male *Q. quercus* visited my garden m.v. light on 9.viii. 1997, operation of which started late, at 22.30 hours. Although the species was reported as being common in nearby Joyden's Wood in 1946 and 1947 by de Worms (1949. *London Naturalist*) it seems not to have been reported from there since, and Plant (1987. *Butterflies of the London Area*) suggests that it may no longer inhabit this locality. However, a specimen settled on my lawn in August 1982, and the species is one rarely observed except in the larval stage; I am sure these two sightings reflect a continued resident status.

Plant (*op. cit.*) omits the species from the Kent portion of the London area, as does Philip (1993. *The Butterflies of Kent*) except to indicate its continued presence at Darenth Wood. There, and at Eynsford it was very common in the 1930s and immediate post-war years where on several occasions in August 1938 I encountered eight or nine specimens half way up one side of a mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, vigorously flying together and sometimes settling. I have not seen this behaviour since regarding *Q. quercus*, and have wondered why an ash tree had been chosen rather than an oak. While preparing this note curiosity led me to two nineteenth century textbooks well endowed with anecdotal detail, and in Newman (1885. *An Illustrated Natural History of British Butterflies*) I found a quotation from Mr S.A. Davis which read "I observed about twenty specimens gambolling and settling upon an ash tree near Beckenham, no oak being near."— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

### **Notes on the flight, larval periods and food-plants of *Apomyelois bistriatella* (Hulst) ssp. *neophanes* (Durrant) (Lep.: Pyralidae)**

Harry Beaumont's note (*Ent. Rec.* 109: 212-213) on this species prompts me to write this one.

He draws attention to four records of the adult between August and September. I can add another. On 20 August 1991 I took a worn example (determined by dissection) at Kennack Sands, Cornwall (VC 1).

Goater (1986. *British Pyralid moths*: 121) states that the larva is full-fed in October. It appears that this is not always the case. On 1 December 1996 at Clearbrook, Devon (VC 3) I found two small larvae, about half-grown, inside the foodplant which was growing on burnt gorse, as well as one full-grown larva in a cocoon.

All the standard reference works give the foodplant as *Daldinia concentrica* (Bolt.: Fr.) Ces. & de Not. However, Jordan (1995. *The encyclopedia of fungi of Britain and Europe*: 75) gives two species of *Daldinia*, which are very well illustrated by colour plates. That on burnt gorse and, occasionally, burnt oak (no mention is made of birch) is *Daldinia vernicosa* (Schw.) Ces. & de Not. *Daldinia concentrica* is found on unburnt hosts such as beech, ash and also other wood. Until fairly recently *Daldinia vernicosa* was considered to be a small form of *concentrica*. To the best of my knowledge, the larva of *A. bistriatella neophanes* has only been found feeding on *Daldinia* on burnt hosts.

I am grateful to Mr M. Jordan for information about the two species.  
– R.J. HECKFORD, 67 Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4AW.

### ***Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyr.) (Lep.: Oecophoridae) – a first record for North Hampshire**

On the 24 September 1997 we examined my moth trap in Fleet (OS grid reference SU 797539) and found a micro which neither of us recognised. The specimen was taken by RE who later identified it as *Tachystola acroxantha*. Subsequent moths were trapped on a further five occasions, with the last specimen being taken on 18 October 1997. All specimens were trapped in early evening, before 9 pm. Barry Goater has confirmed this as the first record for North Hampshire, VC12.

The record is also interesting due to the lateness of the flight period. Most authors (eg Allen, 1979. *Proc. Brit. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **12**: 58), discuss specimens taken in late July/early August. Discussion with Roy McCormick indicate that *T. acroxantha* is well established in Devon at Dawlish and Teignmouth, appearing in two overlapping broods from June to September.

The foodplant is generally given to be *Eucalyptus*, with a second preference for *Berberis* sp (Allen, 1979). Both these plants are found locally.– ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8EY and RON PARFITT, 29 Manor Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7EX.

### **A further note on the occurrence of *Dorycera graminum* (Fabr.) (Dip.: Otitidae) in Kent**

Earlier (1994. *Ent. Rec.* **106**: 138) I referred to the abundance of this species on the Hoo peninsula in north Kent. On 7 July 1996 several further specimens were obtained from the largely derelict land which has been designated Church Marshes Country Park at Milton, near Sittingbourne (grid reference TQ 9165). One was swept from a leaf of a young sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* whilst the remainder were taken from the flowers of one of the larger mayweeds. The first occurrence is of interest in that I have frequently taken the related *Seioptera vibrans* (L.) on sycamore and sallow leaves where I presume it feeds either on the honeydew deposited by aphids or on the microfungi which later develop.

J.F. Stephens (1841. *Entomologist* **1**: 199-202) recorded “*Doryphora graminum*” during a month’s collecting within a four mile radius of Harrietsham (TQ 85) between 8 June and 3 July 1840 and this species I take to be *Dorycera graminum*.